

Message Text

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: CH US PEPR
SUBJ: KO PO-NIEN ON TAIWAN

1. SUMMARY. CPIFA VICE PRESIDENT KO PO-NIEN GAVE VISIT-
ING UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN PROFESSOR ALAN WHITING AN
EMOTIIONAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PRC POSITION ON THE
LIBERATION OF TAIWAN DURING A JUNE 24 CONVERWATION. HE
SAID THAT THE PRC MIGHT HAVE TO USE FORCE TO LIBERATE
TAIWAN AS LONG AS TAIWAN DEPENDS ON THE UNITED STATES.
DURNG A DINNER FOLLOWING THE FOUR HOUR MEETING, KO
VOLUNTEERED THAT IF THE UNITED STATES IS NOT READY FOR
NORMALIZATION, THEN THE PRC WILL BE PATIENT, BUT "OUR
PATIENCE IS LIMITED." END SUMMARY.

2. UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN PROFESSOR ALAN WHITING IS JUST
WINDING UP A ONE WEEK VISIT TO SINKIANG, PEKING, AND
CANTON AS A GUEST OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S INSTITUTE
FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (CPIFA). WHITING RELATED TO USLO
HIGHLIGHTS OF A FOUR HOUR CONVERSATION HE HAD WITH THE
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AGED AND SOMEWHAT SENILE KO PO-NIEN, VICE PRESIDENT OF
CPIFA ON JUNE 24. WHITING ASKED KO ABOUT THE TAIWAN
ISSUE IN GENERAL TERMS, NOTING THAT PRC OFFICIALS
HAD MADE DIFFERENT STATEMENTS ABOUT SINO-US NORMALIZA-
TION SINCE HE WAS LAST HERE IN 1975. WHITING SAID
THAT THE PRC STATEMENT "FORCE WAS INEVITABLE FOR THE
LIBERATION OF TAIWAN" BOTHERED MANY IN THE UNITED

STATES. KO GAVE AN IMPASSIONED RESPONSE. KO SAID THAT "FORCE IS INEVITABLE ONLY IF THE CHIANG CLIQUE DOES NOT SURRENDER. WE SAY IF CHIANG SURRENDERS, THERE WILL BE NO FORCE. IF LEE HAD NOT SURRENDERED LINCOLN WOULD HAVE FOUGHT UNTIL VICTORY. WAR IS THE LAST MEANS OF ANY EVENTUALITY BUT CIVIL WAR IS CIVIL WAR. IF TAIWAN DOES NOT DEPEND ON THE UNITED STATES THEN IT IS EASIER TO HAVE PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS (WITH TAIWAN). BUT IF TAIWAN STILL HAS YOUR HELP, THERE IS NO OTHER MEANS EXCEPT LIBERATION BY FORCE."

3. KO CONTINUED: "YOU SAID THAT YOU HAVE FOUGHT WRONGLY IN VIETNAM; WOULD YOU MAKE A SIMILAR MISTAKE BY FIGHTING IN TAIWAN? YOU COULD INFLUENCE THE CHIANG CLIQUE TO SURRENDER IF YOU GAVE THEM LESS WEAPONS. IF THE UNITED STATES HAS MADE UP ITS MIND ON THE NORMALIZATION ISSUE, THEN IT IS NOT DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. THE UNITED STATES WANTS TO PULL OUT OF TAIWAN. YOU GAVE ONLY TRANSPORT PLANES TO AFRICA, WOULD YOU FIGHT OVER TAIWAN? YOU SAY THAT YOU MUST HAVE THE TREATY TO SAVE FACE BUT THE QUESTION IS WHETHER OTHERS WILL RESPECT THE UNITED STATES IF IT DOES NOT TREAT OTHERS (I.E., CHINA) EQUALLY. THIS QUESTION COULD GO ON FOR 10, 100 OR EVEN 200 YEARS. WE GET STRONGER DAILY; YOU COULD FORCE US TO USE THE MEANS OF WAR (TO LIBERATE TAIWAN)."
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4. AT ONE POINT IN THE CONVERSATION, KO BECAME SO ANIMATED THAT HE KNOCKED HIS HEARING AID OUT. LATER THAT EVENING, HOWEVER, KO APPEARED TO HAVE SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT SOME OF HIS STATEMENTS HE TOLD WHITING THAT IF THE UNITED STATES IS NOT READY FOR NORMALIZATION THEN THE PRC CAN WAIT. "WE ARE PATIENT BUT OUR PATIENCE IS LIMITED.

5. DURING HIS TRIP TO SINKIANG, WHITING RAISED THE TAIWAN ISSUE WITH SHEN CHIH-KUAN, A CPIFA STAFF MEMBER, WHO WAS ACCOMPANYING HIM. WHITING ASKED WHAT A "GANG OF FOUR" FOREIGN POLICY WOULD HAVE LOOKED LIKE IF THE GANG HAD COME TO POWER. WHITING CITED CHIANG CHUN-CHIAO'S VEHEMENT AND ANTAGONIZING STATEMENTS TO SENATOR SCOTT IN 1976 AS AN EXAMPLE. SHEN SAID THAT CHIANG'S STATEMENTS TO SENATOR SCOTT DID NOT REFLECT CHAIRMAN MAO'S POLICY ON THE TAIWAN ISSUE.

6. ON OTHER BILATERAL ISSUES, KO CRITICIZED THE US FOR OBJECTING TO JAPANESE PLANS TO SELL COLOR TELE-

VISION TECHNOLOGY TO THE PRC. HE SAID THAT CHINA WAS NOT BEING TREATED EQUALLY. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE US SHOULD JUST HAVE DECIDED TO SELL THE INFRARED SCANNER TO THE PRC WITHOUT VACILLATING. WHITING ASKED IF THE PRC WOULD EVER CONSIDER JOINT PRC-US EXPLOITATION OF CHINESE OIL. KO SAID THAT THIS WILL NOT HAPPEN. "WE LEARNED OUR LESSON WITH THE SOVIETS IN SINKIANG."

7. COMMENT: PREVIOUSLY, KO'S STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN LESS RELIABLE AND NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENTATIVE OF PRC POLICY. HIS EMOTIONAL OUTBURSTS AND WHAT WHITING DESCRIBED AS SENILE BEHAVIOR DURING HIS CONVERSATION BEHOOVES CAUTION IN INTERPRETING HIS REMARKS.

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8. ADDITIONAL DETAILS ABOUT KO'S COMMENTS AND WHITING'S TRIP CONTAINED IN SEPTEL.WOODCOCK

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